

D#18 LANDSCAPING & STREET TREES

SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY: This Supplemental Staff Report provides responses to issues that were raised at a Planning Commission meeting regarding amendments to the Renton Municipal Code Development Regulations (Title IV). It also includes additional information that staff has identified as being necessary to include in the analysis for amendments.

General Description

The last major revision of Renton's landscaping codes occurred fourteen years ago and has since been followed by incremental additions and changes. The Planning Division requested this docket item as a more comprehensive review and an update is needed to:

- Consolidate code into a common landscaping section,
- Create greater clarity to increase consistency and predictability for users,
- Eliminate redundancy,
- Provide interim street tree standards and recommended species list, and
- Improve aesthetics and provide environmental benefits throughout the City.

Staff Response: A draft of the consolidated landscaping code is provided as well as a draft of recommended street tree species and interim planting standards.

A. Draft Landscaping Code: See Attachment A

The consolidated code includes the following landscaping sections currently in Title IV:

- 4-2-100s: Landscaping in "Zoning Standards Table"
- 4-4-080F.7: Landscaping in Parking Lots w/in "Parking, Loading, and Driveway Regulations"
- 4-3-100H.1.a.vi: Landscaping in Parking Lots w/in "Urban Design Regulations Landscaping Section"
- 4-6-060F: Planting strip and Street Tree standards
- 4-4-070: "Landscaping"

B. Draft of Street Tree Species and Interim Planting Standards: See Attachment B

The City of Renton does not currently have either a list of recommended street trees or standards for their spacing in consideration right-of-way elements such as overhead powerlines, driveways, curbs, etc. Part of the Urban and Community Forestry Development Plan program is to establish such standards. Until this work is concluded, staff is recommending using the City of Seattle's tree list and spacing as an example for interim standards.